



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Aging and Adult Services

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Michael F. Easley, Governor
Dempsey Benton, Secretary

Dennis W. Streets, Director
919-733-3983

August 6, 2008

Dear County Director of Social Services, Local Management Entity Director, Local Health Department Director and County Department on Aging Director

Subject: Decision Making Training for Public Agent Guardians

Ethical dilemmas frequently arise during decision making and are often challenging for the guardian. The guardian is very often concerned about liability when making difficult decisions in the best interest of wards. This may be especially true when the guardian is challenged with decisions concerning consent for invasive medical treatment that may harm the ward, implementation of do-not-resuscitate orders, or withholding or withdrawal of extraordinary means.

The Division of Aging and Adult Services is pleased to announce that the training, "*Guardianship: Decision Making, Legal and Ethical Issues*" will be offered once during SFY 2008-09. **This one-and-a-half-day workshop is specifically designed for directors and assistant directors of local human services agencies who serve as disinterested public agent guardians, and attorneys who work with these agencies.**

Through case-based discussions, lectures, and audio visual materials participants will be introduced to key concepts, issues, and ethical principles to facilitate informed decisions. Participants will learn practical strategies to strengthen existing policies and procedures for decision making. They will also participate in discussions about approaches that may be utilized to limit the guardian's liability, and support the guardian's legal mandates and duties to the ward.

Please mark your calendars for this workshop and share with your legal staff.*. You do not want to miss this opportunity to network with peers and experts.

The workshop will be held:

March 25 & 26, 2009

Forsyth County DSS
741 North Highland Avenue
Winston-Salem

(*Continuing Legal Education [CLEs] credits will be applied for.)

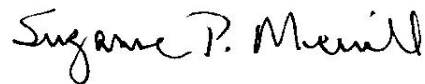
Dear Director
RE: Decision Making Training for Public Agent Guardians
August 6, 2008
Page 2

You may register for this workshop by going online at <http://www.ncswLearn.org>. Although there is no registration fee, you must pre-register. There is no limit on the number of participants who may attend. Please complete registration information at least two weeks in advance of the workshop.

After your registration is received, you will be sent a confirmation letter, directions to the workshop site and suggestions concerning overnight accommodations.

If you have questions or need additional information about the workshop, please contact Kate Walton, Social Services Program Coordinator, at (919) 733-3818. County departments of social services may contact their Adult Programs Representative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne P. Merrill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S' and 'M'.

Suzanne P. Merrill, Chief
Adult Services Section

SPM/ksw

AFS-20-2008